

Detailed Action

Claims 1-9, 11-18, 20-28, 30-37, 39-47, 49-55, and 56 are pending for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-9, 11-18, 20-28, 30-37, 39-47, 49-55, and 56 are allowed over prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art of record does not teach, suggest, or make obvious the claimed invention of: Receiving an instant messaging operation directed to a given user of an instant messenger, wherein the instant messaging operation is received from another instant messenger, wherein said given user is not offline, wherein said instant messaging operation is associated with a specific presence state of the instant messenger, wherein the specific presence state associated with the received instant messaging operation is determined separately from a current presence state that is currently assigned to the instant messenger, and wherein said current presence state is selected from a plurality of possible presence states other than a presence state that indicates only that the given user of the instant messenger is online; determining whether the current presence state that is currently assigned to said instant messenger matches the specific presence state associated with the received instant messaging operation, wherein said current presence state corresponds to said given user and indicates presence information other than just that the given user of the instant messenger is online; and in response to determining that said specific presence state of the received instant messaging operation matches said current presence state assigned to said instant messenger, performing said instant messaging operation by the instant messenger of the given user.

Prior art of record does not teach, suggest, or make obvious the claimed invention of: Receiving an instant messaging operation associated with a specific presence state of an instant messenger that receives the instant messaging operation, wherein the instant messaging operation is received from another instant messenger; storing the instant messaging operation associated with the specific presence

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state of the instant messenger, wherein the specific presence state associated with the received instant messaging operation is determined separately from a current presence state that is currently assigned to the instant messenger, wherein said specific presence state is selected from a plurality of possible presence states other than a presence state that indicates only that a given user of the instant messenger is online; detecting a transition of said current presence state assigned to said instant messenger to said specific presence state subsequent to said storing, such that as a result of said transition, the specific presence state becomes visible to other users as indicative of said given user and indicates presence information other than just that the given user of the instant messenger is online; and performing said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting; wherein said performing is by the instant messenger that receives the instant messaging operation,

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert C. Kowert, Reg. No. 39,255 on September 8, 2010.

The application is amended as followed:

Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

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receiving an instant messaging operation directed to a given user of an instant messenger, wherein the instant messaging operation is received from another instant messenger, wherein said given user is not offline, wherein said instant messaging operation is associated with a specific presence state of the instant messenger, wherein the specific presence state associated with the received instant messaging operation is determined separately from a current presence state that is currently assigned to the instant messenger, and wherein said current presence state is selected from a plurality of possible presence states other than a presence state that indicates only that the given user of the instant messenger is online;

in response to receiving said instant messaging operation, determining whether the current presence state that is currently assigned to said instant messenger matches the specific presence state associated with the received instant messaging operation, wherein said current presence state corresponds to said given user and indicates presence information other than just that the given user of the instant messenger is online; and

in response to determining that said specific presence state of the received instant messaging operation matches said current presence state assigned to said instant messenger, performing said instant messaging operation by the instant messenger of the given user;

wherein each of said receiving, said determining, and said performing is implemented by one or more computer systems.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving an instant messaging operation associated with a specific presence state of an instant messenger that receives the instant messaging operation, wherein the instant messaging operation is received from another instant messenger;

storing the instant messaging operation associated with the specific presence state of the instant messenger, wherein the specific presence state associated with the received instant messaging operation is

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determined separately from a current presence state that is currently assigned to the instant messenger, wherein said specific presence state is selected from a plurality of possible presence states other than a presence state that indicates only that a given user of the instant messenger is online;

detecting a transition of said current presence state assigned to said instant messenger to said specific presence state subsequent to said storing, such that as a result of said transition, the specific presence state becomes visible to other users as indicative of said given user and indicates presence information other than just that the given user of the instant messenger is online; and

performing said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting;

wherein said performing is by the instant messenger that receives the instant messaging operation,

wherein each of said storing, said detecting, and said performing is implemented by one or more computer systems.

20. (Currently amended) A non-transitory computer-accessible storage medium, comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to:

receive an instant messaging operation directed to a given user of an instant messenger, wherein said given user is not offline, wherein the instant messaging operation is received from another instant messenger, wherein said instant messaging operation is associated with a specific presence state of the instant messenger, wherein the specific presence state associated with the received instant messaging operation is determined separately from a current presence state that is currently assigned to the instant messenger, and wherein said current presence state is selected from a plurality of possible presence states other than a presence state that indicates only that the given user of the instant messenger is online;

in response to receiving said instant messaging operation, determine whether the current presence state that is currently assigned to said instant messenger matches the specific presence state associated with the received instant messaging operation, wherein said current presence state corresponds to said

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given user and indicates presence information other than just that the given user of the instant messenger is online; and

in response to determining that said specific presence state of the received instant messaging operation matches said current presence state assigned to said instant messenger, perform said instant messaging operation by the instant messenger of the given user.

30. (Currently amended) A non-transitory computer-accessible storage medium, comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to:

receive an instant messaging operation associated with a specific presence state of an instant messenger that receives the instant messaging operation, wherein the instant messaging operation is received from another instant messenger;

store the instant messaging operation associated with the specific presence state of the instant messenger, wherein the specific presence state associated with the received instant messaging operation is determined separately from a current presence state that is currently assigned to the instant messenger, wherein said specific presence state is selected from a plurality of possible presence states other than a presence state that indicates only that a given user of the instant messenger is online;

detect a transition of said current presence state assigned to said instant messenger to said specific presence state subsequent to said storing, such that as a result of said transition, the specific presence state becomes visible to other users as indicative of said given user and indicates presence information other than just that the given user of the instant messenger is online; and

perform said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting,

wherein said perform is by the instant messenger that receives the instant messaging operation.

39. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

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a memory; and

a processor coupled to said memory and configured to execute instructions, wherein the instructions are executable to implement an instant messenger software module;

wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

receive an instant messaging operation directed to a given user of an instant messenger, wherein said given user is not offline, wherein the instant messaging operation is received from another instant messenger, wherein said instant messaging operation is associated with a specific presence state of the instant messenger, wherein the specific presence state associated with the received instant messaging operation is determined separately from a current presence state that is currently assigned to the instant messenger, and wherein said current presence state is selected from a plurality of possible presence states other than a presence state that indicates only that the given user of the instant messenger is online;

in response to receiving said instant messaging operation, determine whether the current presence state that is currently assigned to said instant messenger matches the specific presence state associated with the received instant messaging operation, wherein said current presence state corresponds to said given user and indicates presence information other than just that the given user of the instant messenger is online; and

in response to determining that said specific presence state of the received instant messaging operation matches said current presence state assigned to said instant messenger, perform said instant messaging operation by the instant messenger of the given user.

49. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a memory; and

a processor coupled to said memory and configured to execute instructions, wherein the instructions are executable to implement an instant messenger software module;

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wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

receive an instant messaging operation associated with a specific presence state of an instant messenger that receives the instant messaging operation, wherein the instant messaging operation is received from another instant messenger;

store [[an]] the instant messaging operation associated with the specific presence state of the instant messenger, wherein the specific presence state associated with the received instant messaging operation is determined separately from a current presence state that is currently assigned to the instant messenger, wherein said specific presence state is selected from a plurality of possible presence states other than a presence state that indicates only that a given user of the instant messenger is online;

detect a transition of said current presence state assigned to said instant messenger to said specific presence state subsequent to said storing, such that as a result of said transition, the specific presence state becomes visible to other users as indicative of said given user and indicates presence information other than just that the given user of the instant messenger is online; and

perform said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting,

wherein said perform is by the instant messenger that receives the instant messaging operation.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua Joo whose telephone number is 571 272-3966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on 571 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Joshua Joo/
Examiner, Art Unit 2454